fore, 'tis not amiss, we tender our loves to him, in this supposed distress of his : it will show honestly In us ; and is very likely to load our purposes with what they travel for, if it be a just and true report that goes of his having.

POET. What have you now to present unto him ?

EiIN. Nothing at this time but my visitation: only I will promise him an excellent piece.

POET. I must serve him so too; tell him of an intent that's coming toward him.

PAIN. Good as the best. Promising is the very air o* the time: it opens the eyes of expectation: performance is ever the duller for his act; and, but in the plainer and simpler kind of people, the deed of saying is quite out of use[5]. To promise is most courtly and fashionable: performance is a kind of will, or testament, which argues a great sickness in his judgment that makes it.

TIM. Excellent workman ! Thou canst not paint a man so bad as is thyself.

POET. I am thinking, what I shall say I have provided for him : It must be a personating of himself[6] : a satire against the softness of prosperity;

and occurs in Psalm xcii, 11 : " The righteous shall *flourish* like a jWw?-tree." STEEVENS.

5 —the deed OF SAYING- is quite out of use.] The *doing* of that which we have *said* we would do, the accomplishment and performance of our promise, is, except among the lower classes of mankind, quite out of use. So, in King Lear :

«<.,——In my true-heart
*£ I find she names my very *deed of love."* Again, more appositely, in Hamlet:
** As he, in his peculiar act and
force, ef May give his *saying deed."*

Mr. Pope rejected the words—of saying, and the four following editors adopted his licentious regulation. MALONE. I claim the merit of having restored the old reading.

STEEVENS.

6 It must be a PEBSONATING of himself:] *Personating,* for